

New Jersey's Prescription Drug Retail Price Registry

Ways to Save on Prescription Drugs



consumer**brief**

TIPS ON WAYS TO SAVE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

■ **Shop around and compare prices.** Prescription drug prices can vary as much as \$60 per unit from one New Jersey pharmacy to the next depending on the specific drug and other factors. You may want to call a few local pharmacies to compare prices. The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs has a Prescription Drug Price Registry which allows consumers to compare the prices offered at different pharmacies for the 150 most frequently prescribed drugs. The registry may be accessed at www.njdrugprices.nj.gov.

■ **Understand your drug benefit** so that you will be able to use it wisely. Be sure you are familiar with your co-payments for prescription drugs. Also, find out if your health plan has a drug formulary. This is a list of drugs covered by your health insurance plan. Drugs are organized into tiers with different co-pays, with a lesser co-pay for a generic to much higher amounts for some brand name drugs.

■ **Consider generics.** Ask your healthcare provider if a generic can be prescribed instead of the brand name drug. Generic drugs are available after a patent has expired on a brand name drug. The active ingredients in generic drugs are chemically identical to the active ingredients in brand name drugs. Buying generic drugs rather than brand name drugs can potentially save the consumer a significant amount of money.

■ **Consider mail order.** In addition to understanding your drug benefit plan, check to see if there is a mail order pharmacy option available through the plan. Frequently you can get a lower cost 90-day supply of your medicine by utilizing this part of your health benefits.

■ **Consider a therapeutically similar drug.** Ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider if another drug would have the same therapeutic effect as a more expensive drug that has been prescribed for you. Sometimes your condition can be treated with another drug that is less expensive.

■ **It is generally good practice for consumers to buy all of their prescriptions from the same pharmacy.** This allows the pharmacist to keep track of the medication being taken by you in order to avoid potentially harmful drug interactions or to prevent duplicate drug therapy. If you decide to shop at more than one pharmacy, make sure to tell the pharmacist about all of the drugs you are currently taking. Make a list of all of the prescription drugs you take and who prescribed them. Be sure to share this list with your healthcare providers and pharmacists every time a prescription is written or filled for you.

www.njdrugprices.nj.gov



DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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